THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Vice President of the Philippine Commonwealth can or cannot be a figurehead, depending upon the wishes of the President. The Vice President will not, as in the United States, preside over the Senate, and will not be expected to expend his surplus energies at dinner parties and official receptions. On the other hand, he can be more nearly like the former Vice Governor of the Philippines, since he can be appointed to the Cabinet and also as head of an executive department. Should, however, the President not desire the Vice President in the Cabinet, the latter will have absolutely no duties to perform.

The Vice President is elected along with the President by direct vote of the people for six years. The Vice President becomes President if at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President the latter shall have died. Also, the powers and duties of the President devolve upon the Vice President in the event of the removal of the President from office, or his death, resignation, or inability to serve.

As long as the President and the Vice President come from one party or from a coalition of parties, all will be well. The Vice President will then be called to the Cabinet and will naturally be the chief adviser of the President. But if the President belongs to one party and the Vice President to another party, and there is no alliance of the two, the Vice President will have to be content with an empty

honor and with drawing his salary, with time available to intrigue for power.

THE CABINET

The administration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines is carried on by seven executive departments, namely, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Finance,